4. (Amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a fragment of at least 50 amino acids of nonstructural protein selected from the group consisting of NS3, NS4, and NS5.

6. (Amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a hepatitis C virus nonstructural protein wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a promoter, enhancer, polyadenylation sequence, and optionally 5' UTR of hepatitis C virus.

8. (Amended) A recombinant host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 6.

10. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a nonstructural protein selected from the group consisting of NS3, NS4, and NS5.

11. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a fusion protein encoding NS3, NS4, or NS5, or any combination thereof.

12. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a fragment of at least 50 amino acids of nonstructural protein selected from the group consisting of NS3, NS4, and NS5.

13. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a hepatitis C virus nonstructural protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to regulatory elements functional in human cells; and

b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent;

wherein said regulatory elements functional in human cells comprise a promoter, enhancer, polyadenylation sequence, and optionally 5' UTR of hepatitis C virus.